1922

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY

Feb. 16, PM, Thus.

Dear Munz:-

Your letter came today and I was tickled to pieces with the news that it contained. I certainly hope that you can come to some agreement whereby you can work up the flora. You suggested that I ask Parishes opinion but as he was not here I told Dr Hall and got his ideas on the subject. He feels, which I dont, that it would be unfortunate for you to hook up with the NY bunch, but on the other hand he thinks that a new flora is needed down south. He says that Abrams is very broad-minded and he would not be surprised if, were he approached properly, he would consent to a cooperative flora with the International Rules. Hall suggested, and I fully agree with him, that the best thing for you to do would be to write to Abrams saying that you had been considering begining work on a SO Cal flora and thst his offer interested you very much, but that you feel rather strongly on the nomenclature question and wonder if you and he could get together on fundimentals. There is of course two sides to the coauthership problem. The coupling of your name and institution with Abrams and Standford Univ. is not an unwelcomed thing as it will give precedence to both. Being junior author of course you will come second, but, as in most such combinations, you know and nearly every one else knows that it is usually the second name that is the important one; for example look at Wooton and Standley, Coulter and Rose, and Britton and Rose. As far as credit is concerned I would not hesitate a moment if I were you. There is a point regarding the scope of the flora which I do believe to be important. I should hate to see you slam together a complete flora of So Calif in a short time for I believe that should be worked towards thru a number of years and the results published from a time to time much as Gray did in preparing the Synop Fl. A complete flora should really stand for something complete and critical; something that you could really be proud of. Revising the LA manual would be a fine start towards the big flora of So Calif as you would get track of many things and would get a certain prestige by doing so. I think you are right in considering the 3rd ed of the LA flora as a transient thing and something far more readily taken up than a comprehensive flora. I would advise you to accept Abrams if you can get him to agree on letting you revise the old manual and really make it representative of its region, but I certainly will not advise you to tackle a new flora with the idea of publishing soon and particularly in conjunction with another author for, as I have indicated, that should really be your flora and the product of mature and extended study. I would try, if I were you, to have Abrams let you work under the Intern. Rules, but if he does not think it best, as I believe I would if I were in his shoes, then I believe I would accept or rather continue the use of the Amer. Rules in the flora of LA and revise that manual. You mention that you might have difficulties in publishing a comprehensive flora if you helped get out a revised edition of the present flora, but I would not worry about that, for a good flora of So Cal could not be gotten out, Davidson and Moxley not-with-standing, before the 3rd ed would be exhausted. I certainly want you to take up Abrams offer if you possibly can, that is, if you can get h him to agree to a revision of the LA flora. At any rate it ought to emphasize the fact that you ought to begin to get data together. You ought to follow Jepson's stunt of having your students draw up original accounts of groups from Herb and field studies and on your part begin to construct keys which you can try out on you dear students.

I am sending back to you the plants recently sent me. Tracys ferns certainly are fishy. I guess he got C. Cooperae at Slover Mt alright but I am very dubious regarding the origin of the Selaginella and C. Clevelandii. The Noth. Parryi seems alright. If Tracy had sprung only one of the dubious ferns on us I might have accepted it without question, but two such startling finds is too much ~~especiall~~

~~especiall~~

especially in such a well worked area as Slover Mt. The data on the material is none to certain and un mistakable and if you can not varify his stations by personal ~~observati~~ observation and have no reason for keeping them I would suggest that we disregard them. There have been too many erroneous and faulty record concerning So Calif ferns to risk adding a couple more. If the selaginella was only positive it would make a nice record. Is the N. Parryi reported from the Mt before? I noted a few scraps of C.Cooperae material mixed thru it which might help to validate its origin. The Cooperae material is a peculiar form but matched by material from other localities. I am interested in what y u say regarding Reeds ferns. I guess you had better give that Box Spring Mt record for C. Cooperae and follow it with the statement that there is no material to substantiate it in the Reed herb. That kind of statement usually is taken a a kind of infered doubting. If Reed has not told you that the det. was correct you might go as far as to say that a lapsus calami is involved and that probably N. Newberryi, which is very common in the particular area, was meant I have had no word from the Isoetes expert. Does Tracy mention his Slover Mt collections in his thesis ? he ought to as he visited the Mt while working on the paper. If he does not them there are good reasons why we should not. I am sending you a collection of Marsilia from Ramona S D Co. I have also sent a reference regarding Celtis and that descript. of the new Sphaeralcea. I have decided that we had better describe in conjunction that Galium Hallii so when you copy the descript leave off my name.

Hall is looking around for some one to go on that Sierra job that I mentio mentioned to you. I wish that you would feel out Peirson on the matter when you get a chance and let me know what the results are.

I have just looked over the Schaftner paper but it did not strike me greatly. It looks as tho we had every thing in that key he sent us. Have you looked up his Ohio Nat. paper?

You were only too correct regarding that Allonia and it is certainly worth reporting.

Well I have said all that I can think of now so will close, with best of regards,

Ivan